AWARDS

Dolloff has served in a variety of contracting and program management positions since becoming a member of the Army Acquisition Corps in 1990. He is Level III certified in both disciplines, holds undergraduate and advanced degrees, and is a Certified Professional Contract Manager and a member of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA).

Michael P. Farrell was commended for his work as an Acquisition Intern for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), Fort Monmouth, NJ. During assignments at both the Fort Monmouth and Alexandria, VA, CECOM Acquisition Centers, Farrell demonstrated his exceptional skills through successes on projects typically reserved for senior employees. His potential was recognized at the outset of his career when he received the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

Farrell's work on the All Source Analysis System-Light (ASAS-L) acquisition is just one example of his ability to work at levels beyond those expected of an intern. His extensive market research and efforts to timely solicit, negotiate, and execute $15.6 million worth of sole-source task orders enabled the successful fielding of the ASAS-L on schedule. Farrell also made valuable contributions as a team member on one of the most complex acquisitions being conducted by the Alexandria center—the Defense Travel System contract. Farrell holds an undergraduate degree with honors, is Level II certified in contracting, is a member of NCMA, and is pursuing an M.B.A. degree.

Each October, AMC requests nominations for the Besson Award. Procedural guidance for the award is contained in AMC Regulation 672-10 and can be accessed at **http://www.amc.army.mil/amc/rda/rda-ac/besson01/besson-award-01.htm**. For additional information, please contact Scott Crosson at (703) 617-0544 or **scrosson@hqamc.army.mil**.

NEWS BRIEFS

Keeping Emergency Responders Cool

A new personal cooling system for emergency responders working in encapsulated protective suits is the goal of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement between the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center (Natick) and the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT). The MIPT is a nonprofit organization that sponsors research on equipment, training, and procedures to help first responders prevent and respond to terrorism. The institute and an Oklahoma State University team are partnering with Natick to improve protective clothing for police officers, firefighters, and medical personnel who respond to terrorist incidents. The 3-year, $3 million project will involve the design and construction of a personal cooling system for work in areas affected by chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. The objective is a wearable cooling system that will reduce the effects of heat stress on emergency responder performance.

MIPT Director GEN Dennis Reimer (USA, Ret.) said he knew about Natick's facilities for designing and testing military protective equipment. After some correspondence, he became "convinced" that the facility has the know-how that can be transferred to the first responder community. "We at MIPT are extremely pleased to be associated with the professionals at Natick, and at our first year-in-progress review, we saw how much we were able to leverage the experience and expertise of the Soldier Systems Center," Reimer said.

Some commercial personal cooling garments use ice pack inserts, which cool unevenly. Under this MIPT Program, a new technology called adsorptive carbon-based cooling will be developed to solve these types of problems. "Adsorptive carbon-based cooling is something we're aware of, but we haven't done research and development on it," said Bill Haskell, Technical Program Development Manager for the National Protection Center at Natick. "This project is investigating a technology the Army could leverage for future warrior systems."

The portable, integrated cooling system will include a liquid-circulating garment developed at Natick and will be powered by a battery for a 1-hour mission. A prototype cooling system is scheduled to be ready by April 2003. Natick is part of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM). For more information about SBCCOM or the Soldier Systems Center (Natick), go to **http://www.sbccom.army.mil**.

NEWS BRIEFS

AMRICD Poster Takes Top Honors

Best poster honors in the In Vitro Toxicology Session of 2002's Society of Toxicology (SOT) national meeting in Nashville, TN, went to Dr. James Dillman III and his co-authors Kriston McGary, James Clark, Catherine Braue, and Dr. John Schlager. The winners are all employed in the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense's (AMRICD's) Applied Pharmacology Branch, and the poster, "Upregulation of Cytokine Release by Sulfur Mustard Exposure is Mediated by the p38 MAP Kinase Signaling Pathways," was one of more than 30 presented during the session. Dillman accepted the award on March 18, the opening day of the SOT meeting.

Since 1999, Dillman has worked at AMRICD as a National Research Council Research Fellow under the mentorship of Schlager. Dillman has focused his research efforts on proteomics to define the molecular and cellular consequences of chemical warfare agent exposure to identify potential prophylactic and therapeutic targets for further research and development.

According to AMRICD Commander COL James A. Romano, "Dr. Dillman is an expert practitioner of proteomics, the study of protein properties to obtain an integrated view of disease and injury processes. His award, given by the Society of Toxicology, validates the scientific worthiness of his approach. Ultimately, these technologies will enable us to better identify molecular targets for development of chemical warfare agent countermeasures. We are very proud of Dr. Dillman's accomplishments."

Dillman received his B.S. in biology from Lebanon Valley College of Pennsylvania and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia where he studied molecular motors in the nervous system. Before joining AMRICD, he held a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Neurology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where he studied the molecular pathogenesis of stroke and neuronal degeneration. He has authored or coauthored more than 30 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and abstracts.

ACQUISITION EXCELLENCE

Army Contracting Metrics Show Continued Progress

The FY01 Procurement Statistical Reports and *Summary of Procurement Actions* have been published, and the Army has completed its annual progress reports. The results will be posted on the Web at **http://acqnet.saalt.army.mil/acqref/armetrc.htm**.

By examining historical data, conducting ratio analyses, and assessing the overall trends, the Army can reach important conclusions about the health of its contracting mission and the impact of Army acquisition reform. One key measurement tool in use since 1995 is the cost-to-purchase metric. This metric provides the cost expended (in cents) to purchase one dollar's worth of supplies or services. During the analysis period from FY95 through FY01, the cost-to-purchase metric decreased from 1.42 cents in FY95 to 1.09 cents in FY01, a decrease of 23 percent.

The average annual obligation per person increased from $3.3 million in FY95 to $7.5 million in FY01, an increase of 227 percent. This metric, the average dollar awarded per person per year, indicates that the average Army contracting professional has become significantly more productive in terms of total output. This productivity increase is attributed to a variety of factors including significant personnel reductions, process improvements, and acquisition reform initiatives.

A third metric that increased dramatically was the average obligation per contracting action. This metric rose from $14,400 in FY95 to $109,418 in FY01, an increase of more than 760 percent. This increase reflects the use of government purchase cards for micropurchase needs, as well as the continuing emphasis on consolidating contract requirements where possible and useful.

For additional information, contact Monti Jaggers at (703) 681-7571 or ***monteze.jaggers@saalt.army.mil****.*

PERSONNEL

O'Connor Takes Over As COE R&D Director

Dr. Michael J. O'Connor, former Director of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's (ERDC's) Geotechnical and Structures Laboratory, Vicksburg, MS, has assumed new duties as the Director of Research and Development, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He succeeds Dr. Lewis E. Link Jr., who has retired.

O'Connor's previous positions include Director of ERDC's Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL), Champaign, IL; Technical Director, CERL; and Chief of CERL's Infrastructure Laboratory.

O'Connor is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Army Engineer Association DeFleury Medal (Silver Order) and the 2000 Equal Employment Opportunity Award. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial engineering and a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The author of more than 30 technical papers and reports, O'Connor is a member of the Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. In addition, he is a member of the Construction Research Council and the Awards Committee of the Construction Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers.